which was to give an account of the plastic nature, the sum whereof briefly amounts to this; that it is a certain lower life than the animal, which acts regularly and artificially, according to the direction of mind and understanding, reason, and wisdom, for ends, or in order to good, though itself do not know the reason of what it does, nor is master of that wisdom according to which it acts, but only a servant to it, and drudging executioner of the same; it operating fatally and sympathetically, according to laws and commands prescribed to it by a perfect intellect, and impressed upon it; and which is either a lower faculty of some conscious soul, or else an inferior kind of life or soul by itself; but essentially depending upon a higher intellect.

We proceed to our second undertaking; which was to shew, how grossly those two sorts of Atheists before-mentioned, the Stoical or Cosmo-plastic, and the Stratonical or Hylozoic, both of them acknowledging this plastic life of nature, do mistake the notion of it, or pervert it, and abuse it, to make a certain spurious and counterfeit God-almighty of it (or a first principle of all things), thereby excluding the true omnipotent Deity, which is a perfect mind, or consciously understanding nature, presiding over the universe; they substituting this stupid plastic nature in the room of it

Now the chief errors or mistakes of these Atheists concerning the plastic nature, are these four following. First, that they make that to be the Irst principle of all, and the highest thing in the universe, which is the last and lowest of all lives; a thing essentially secondary, derivative, and de~